UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7093

July 10, 2001

In Reply to:
CO-932
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EMS TRANSMISSION 07/10/2001
Instruction Memorandum No. CO-2001-034
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To: All Employees

From: Deputy State Director, Resource Services

Subject: Implementation of Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Science Strategy - Regional Science Catalogs

Washington Office Information Bulletin No. 2001-030 and Acting Director Nina Hatfield transmitted BLM's new Science Strategy. The strategy presents BLM's approach to science with three primary objectives. First, it outlines the role of science in BLM decision making and public land management by establishing a process for identifying science needs and priorities. It informs us that those needs are reflected in the BLM's Strategic Plan and budget. Finally, it provides a means for communicating science needs, sharing its science and results, and highlighting science opportunities on public lands.

Successful implementation of the Science Strategy depends on the BLM's ability to demonstrate the need and benefits of science-based management. The needs are then incorporated into the budget process. The way to communicate the BLM's science needs is recorded in Regional Catalogs. Each Regional Catalog will contain descriptions of assorted science needs which, if addressed, could assist BLM in managing the public lands. To get a broad array of needs, it is important for supervisors to encourage input from as many people involved in managing the public lands as possible. The **August 15th** due date is meant to ensure everyone has the time to ponder their science needs, provide feedback, and deliver the need to the appropriate Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit(s). As program meetings and workshops occur over the summer, this topic may be an appropriate agenda item. State Office program leaders who already know science needs for their respective programs may wish to submit them in lieu of a response from all program personnel.

Colorado is very complex, comprised of three regions, which are roughly defined along biogeographic boundaries of the new Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units system (see www.cesu.org). Colorado contains portions of the Colorado Plateau, Great Plains and Rocky Mountains. The Colorado Plateau region has already developed a catalog. It covers a variety of vegetation types, including pine, douglas fir, pinon-juniper, mountain mahogany, oak-brush, great basin sage, saltbush, greasewood, and sagebrush steppe. BLM Field Offices primarily in the Colorado Plateau are San Juan, Uncompahgre, Grand Junction, and White River. Little Snake, Glenwood Springs, and Gunnison Field Offices also comprise of landscapes within the Colorado Plateau as well as the Rocky Mountains units. The Great Plains is broadly defined in Eastern Colorado to include eastern Great Plains and the Rocky Mountain Piedmont Physiographic Regions, adjoining the Rocky Mountains. It covers the grama, buffalo grass, scattered pinon-juniper, willow-cottonwood river systems, and wheatgrass, bluestem, needlegrass, sandsage-prairies. Parts of the Royal Gorge Field Office has lands in the Great Plains unit. The Rocky Mountains includes the Southern Rocky Mountains Physiographic Region with pine, douglas-fir, sagebrush steppe, great basin sage, alpine meadows, saltbush, greasewood, wheatgrass, and needlegrass plant communities. The Regional Catalogs for the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains will be developed concurrently with Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. Kremmling, Royal Gorge, La Jara, Saquache, Glenwood Springs, Gunnison, and Little Snake Field Offices all manage lands within the Rocky Mountains unit.

Some science issues may overlap in all three regional areas. For example, plague research for the prairie dog is important for the Great Plains, Rocky Mountains and Colorado Plateau. Please submit any science needs that apply to the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains study units. They will be used in development of the new research catalogs of science needs for those study units. New needs can still be added to the Colorado Plateau study unit. The Colorado Plateau research committee will be requesting more science needs for their catalog. We can submit the same science needs to more than one cooperative ecosystem study unit, where appropriate.

Attached is a form for tracking each of your science needs. Your needs can be identified as a simple idea or a detailed description. Science needs can be flexible, covering a wide range from inventory to detailed investigative research projects. Once your needs are submitted, they will be cataloged based on their scope (i.e. national, regional, site specific). Please ensure your needs are submitted to CO932 by **August 15, 2001**. If you desire additional assistance or information, please contact Scott Davis at scott_davis@blm.gov 303-239-3721.

SIGNED BY:
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Deputy State Director, Resource Services

AUTHENTICATED BY:
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Attachment
1-Outline To Identify Science Needs

OUTLINE TO IDENTIFY SCIENCE NEEDS

1. Issue Summary

   a. Subject matter

   ***(A brief description, 1 to 3 sentences or a short paragraph, giving a title or short description of the Issue. It may be as general or as specific as you wish for your catalog. Example: Invasive weeds).***

   b. Why is the subject of concern?

   ***(Why is this an issue? What management situations or questions are driving this issue? Why is this a priority? What are the resource, economic, or political forces that make this an issue? Example: In recent years it has become increasingly apparent that the spread of invasive weeds is reducing productivity and biodiversity on much of our nations lands. There are tremendous economic losses because of this. The public has become more aware of this and are being more concerned and vocal about it.)***

   c. What are the implications of failing to address the issue?

   ***(If our knowledge and information to address the issue is not more current or better than we have now, how will the decisions or actions be hampered? What will be the resource, economic, or political fallout if the issue is not dealt with? Example: Failing to address this issue and do something about it will result in a continued loss of productivity and biodiversity on several million acres per year and continued expansion of the invasives distributions.)***

2. How will BLM benefit by addressing this issue?

3. What bio-geographic areas are of particular concern?